

February 2008 EHDI E-Mail Express

This is an e-mail communication from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention through the Medical Home" project. It is designed to provide AAP hearing screening Chapter Champions with resources and current information on early hearing detection and intervention. The EHDI E-Mail Express is sent on a monthly basis. Please feel free to share the EHDI E-Mail Express with colleagues working on newborn and infant hearing detection and intervention issues. (Distribution information appears at the end of this e-mail.)

1. Interesting Sessions at the 2008 EHDI Conference – For Chapter Champions

Since 2001, the National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference has provided key stakeholders an opportunity to identify areas of concern, promote collaboration, and share best practices. The conference sessions will focus on the following program tracks:

- EHDI Program Enhancement
- Audiological Assessment and Intervention
- Early Intervention
- Medical Home
- Follow-up, Tracking, and Data Management
- Family Issues
- Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance
- Information Dissemination and Marketing
- Providing Services to Underserved Groups
- Enhancing Language and Cognitive Development

Four sessions that may be of interest to physicians are described below; session times and locations are available via the complete agenda with abstracts which can be found at <http://www.infanthearing.org/meeting/ehdi2008/index.html> or will be included in the program you receive on site at the conference..

Monitoring Risk Factors for Late Onset Hearing Loss

Authors: Susan J. Norton, Richard C. Folsom, Esther Ehrmann, Karin Neidt

Presenters: Susan J. Norton, Richard C. Folsom

In 2004, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities funded a project to investigate the feasibility of monitoring infants with risk factors for late-onset or progressive hearing loss. The project is now in year 4 and this presentation describes progress to date. The Washington State Early Hearing

Loss Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention (EHDDI) program has been tracking an increasing number of infants screened for hearing loss in Washington since 2002. Risk factor status of all infants as well as those reported with late onset hearing loss will be discussed, in addition to challenges in the accurate identification and follow-up of infants with risk factors, inconsistencies in report of risk factors by hospitals and audiologists, and compliance of families and physicians in obtaining recommended follow-up.

Doing What it Takes: Advancing Outcomes for Children with Hearing Loss

Authors/Presenters: Teresa H. Caraway, Tamara H. Elder

Everything we thought we knew about deafness in children is changing because of newborn hearing screening, advances in hearing technology and auditory based early intervention. Due to the rapidly changing body of knowledge regarding technology and early intervention for infants with hearing loss, state EHDI and early intervention programs are challenged to implement state of the art protocols and best practices to maximize outcomes. Current best practice protocols and standards will be outlined to maximize auditory brain development from an audiological and early interventionist perspective. The importance of a team approach to the management of a child's hearing loss will be detailed. When we do what it takes, the "sky is the limit" regarding spoken language and literacy outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Identifying the Most Common Causes of Hearing Loss

Authors: Brenda Sommer, Gail Lim, Laura Olinger, Marla Stacey, Marissa Konschnik, Karrie Beardsley

Presenter: Brenda Sommer

One of the most common birth defects is hearing loss or deafness, which affects as many as three out of every 1,000 babies born. When a parent learns of his or her child's diagnosis of hearing loss, a common question is: "Why?" Determining the cause of hearing loss or identifying a child at risk, helps direct medical management and care for a newborn or child. The most critical years of speech and language development are from birth to three years of age. Early detection of hearing loss will allow the physician to provide timely intervention and enable parents to obtain the special attention their child will need for language, social, emotional and academic development.

Cytomegalovirus: Survey of Physicians' Knowledge and Practices

Authors: Michael J. Cannon, Danielle S. Ross, Sonja A. Rasmussen, Britta Anderson, Jeffrey L. Jones, Jay Schulkin

Presenter: Danielle S. Ross

Congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection is a major cause of childhood hearing loss, vision loss, and cognitive impairment. Women who are first

infected during pregnancy are at high risk of transmitting CMV to their fetuses. Many CMV infections among pregnant women are believed to occur through contact with the urine or saliva of infected children. Because a CMV vaccine is not currently available, traditional public health practices, such as improved hand hygiene during pregnancy, have been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Despite these recommendations, few women are aware of congenital CMV and how to prevent it. To determine the extent to which obstetrician-gynecologists were following the ACOG guidelines regarding CMV, we performed a mail survey of 606 ACOG members (approximately 2% of total membership), sampled to demographically represent ACOG.

2. Update on Newborn Screening

- A new AAP policy statement, *Newborn Screening Expands: Recommendations for Pediatricians and Medical Homes—Implications for the System* which helps guide Primary Care Providers (PCPs) on how to effectively engage the newborn screening program in their state was published in the January 2008 issue of *Pediatrics* and is available at:
<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;121/1/192>.

Reprints of this statement, which include color copies of the featured algorithms, are available to EHDI Chapter Champions. To obtain a copy, please contact Ginny Chanda at gchanda@aap.org.

- Regional Genetics Resources: Did you know there are seven Genetic Service and Newborn Screening Regional Collaborative Groups (RCs) that work to strengthen and support the genetics and newborn screening (NBS) capacity of the states by undertaking a regional approach to determine and resolve the needs and maldistribution of genetic resources? A fundamental goal of the program is to bring services closer to local committees. To learn more about the resources at the RC closest to you visit: <http://www.nccrcg.org/regional.asp>.
- Genetics Visiting Professorship Available: To increase the availability of genetics education for pediatricians, the National Center for Medical Home Initiatives in collaboration with the National Coordinating Center for Genetics and Newborn Screening Regional Collaborative Groups will coordinate a genetics visiting professorship (GVP) program. The funds will be used to bring a genetics expert to chapter annual meetings or executive committee meetings. The chapter can also use

the GVP program to host a grand rounds session at a hospital in the state.

For more information, visit

<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/screening/GeneticsVisitingProfessorships.html>.

- Don't forget to visit the AAP Newborn Screening Web site for the latest information and access to valuable resources:
<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/screening/newborn.html>.

3. New *MMWR* Article on Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

The following *MMWR* article, *Knowledge and Practices of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Regarding Cytomegalovirus Infection During Pregnancy --- United States, 2007*, was published in January 2008 and was posted by Reuter's. Several other media sources picked up the feed from Reuter's. As you know, congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a leading cause of childhood hearing loss.

A copy of the article can be found at

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5703a2.htm?s_cid=mm5703a2_e.

The article published by Reuter's can be found at

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssHealthcareNews/idUSN2450158220080124>.

The AAP EHDI program implementation staff send this e-mail update to the Academy's EHDI Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, staff and state EHDI coordinators. For additional information on hearing screening, click on the following link:

<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/screening/hearing.html>. Previous e-mail updates are available upon request from Michelle Esquivel at mzesquivel1@yahoo.com or (847) 608-5308. If you would like to unsubscribe to the update, please respond to this e-mail so staff can make the change.